

Learn more about the project at:
www.cred4teach.eu

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Newsletter Vol. 1



What is CRED4TEACH?

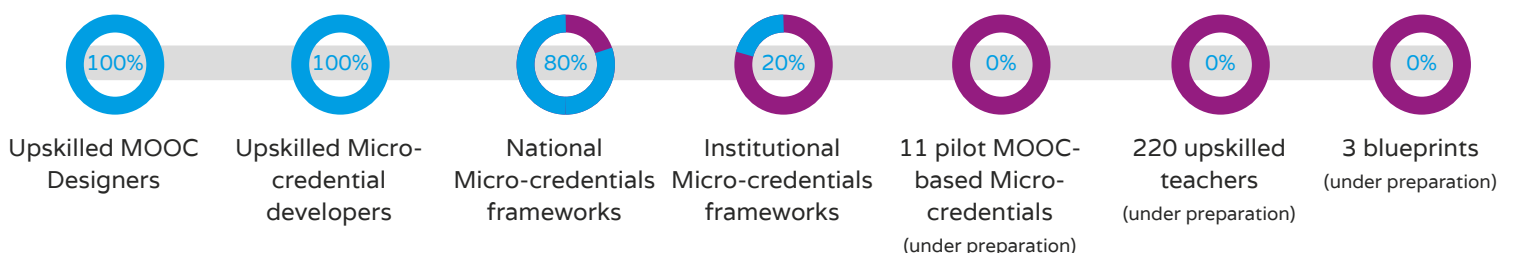
CRED4TEACH is a short name of the Erasmus+ project “MOOC-based Micro-credentials for teacher professional development”. CRED4TEACH responds to the needs of higher education institutions and educational decision makers in countries Albania, Montenegro and Ukraine towards provi-

ding high-quality, inclusive, flexible and competence-based training provisions to in-service teachers across the educational sectors. With this in mind, the project aims to establish MOOC-based micro-credentials to enhance opportunities for teacher professional development in the target countries.

CRED4TEACH objectives:

- To boost staff skills for the development and delivery of MOOC-based micro-credentials;
- To develop and introduce national and institutional frameworks for the delivery, issuing and recognition of micro-credentials;
- To create, deliver and validate pilot MOOC-based micro-credentials;
- To encourage a wider adoption of micro-credentials for the professional development of teachers and other target groups.

CRED4TEACH Deliverables



What is the CRED4TEACH innovative approach?

CRED4TEACH innovative approach is to combine elements of formal (micro-credentials) and non-formal (MOOC-based pedagogic strategies) education to modernize teacher professional development in Albania, Montenegro, and Ukraine.



Micro-credentials are short flexible **formal learning courses** or programmes allowing for a targeted acquisition of skills and competences. At the same time, micro-credentials represent records of achieved learning outcomes assessed against transparent standards.

What are Micro-credentials?

MOOC-based Micro-credentials

The project began on June 1, 2023. With this newsletter, we celebrate the accomplishment of the first project year and would love to present to you a few exciting insights into our work. Feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and networks, helping us modernize teacher professional development!



What is a MOOC?

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are online courses available for anyone to enroll in. They are designed for a large number of participants applying a specific instructional design technology that allows for time and space flexibility, learner interaction, and self-paced **non-formal learning**.

Training TOWARDS BECOMING A MOOC DESIGNER

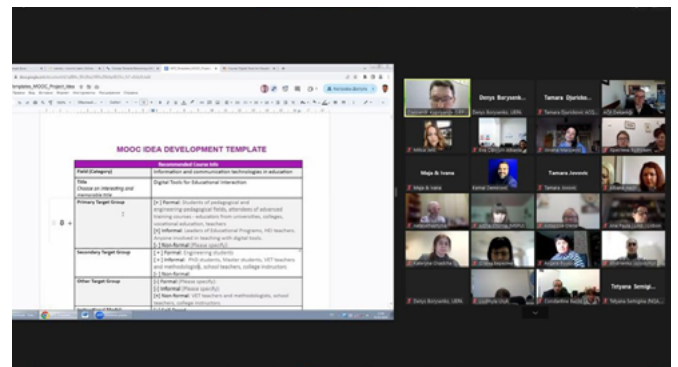
- ✓ **Start date:** November 13, 2023
- ✓ **End date:** February 2, 2024
- ✓ **Workload:** 12 weeks (90 hours)
- ✓ **Format:** blended training
- ✓ **Result:** 48 upskilled MOOC designers

The twelve-week blended course offered by CRED-4TEACH partner Anadolu University (Türkiye) has equipped 48 team members at eight Albanian, Montenegrin and Ukrainian universities with skills and tools needed to produce high-quality MOOCs and effectively use MOOC-based pedagogic strategies.

The first stage of the course was delivered as an asynchronous online course, thus giving the opportunity for the participants to learn both from its content and the mode of its delivery. The subsequent 3-day face-to-face session took place at Anadolu University from January 10 – 12, 2024 bringing the course participants together in Eskisehir for sharing ideas, detailed instructions, and constructing the



outline of the MOOC projects to be presented as a final assessment activity of the course. At the final online presentation of the small-scale MOOC projects on February 2, 2024, the participants demonstrated and discussed their own draft online courses and proved their mastery in this field.



A well-deserved Certificate of Completion was issued to 48 newly minted MOOC Designers from Albania, Montenegro, and Ukraine. Congratulations on this success!



Training CONCEPTUALIZATION AND ACCREDITATION OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS

- ✓ **Start date:** February 5, 2024
- ✓ **End date:** February 7, 2024
- ✓ **Workload:** 20 hours
- ✓ **Format:** face-to-face training
- ✓ **Result:** 22 upskilled Micro-credential developers

The training was organized by CRED4TEACH partner Universidade Aberta in Lisbon and aimed to equip relevant decision-makers from Albania, Montenegro, and Ukraine with approaches to the provision and accreditation of micro-credentials.

The three days of training were devoted to devising strategies and provisions for teachers' professional development and the role of micro-credentials in it. The trainees investigated the legislative and regulatory base for the recognition of micro-credentials in the European Union, analyzed the imminent prerequisites and challenges for the practical implementation of micro-credentials in Ukraine, Albania, and Montenegro, and agreed on an action plan, taking into consideration the national regulations existing in the participants' countries.



Additionally, trainees were introduced to the approaches of MOOC delivery at Universidade Aberta, the resource base, and the media studio.

The completion of the training marked the achievement of an important milestone in the project, paving the way for the development of MOOC-based micro-credentials by the upskilled training participants.



CRED4TEACH partner meetings Kickoff meeting

From October 16 to 17, 2023, the CRED4TEACH kickoff meeting was held at Fachhochschule des Mittelstandes (FHM) in Cologne, Germany. The event hosted 20 in-person and 19 virtual attendees from seven partner countries: Albania, Estonia, Germany, Montenegro, Portugal, Turkey, and Ukraine, representing 15 partner institutions. We experienced 1.5 engaging days of learning about each other, discussions, planning, decision-making, and exploring Cologne's famous sights and culinary highlights. We were excited to embark on our 36-month adventure, creating innovative MOOC-based short training programs for teacher professional development in Albania, Montenegro, and Ukraine.



2nd transnational project meeting

From April 25 to 26, 2024, the second transnational project meeting was hosted by Mediterranean University in Podgorica, Montenegro. The core topic of the meeting was the discussion of national micro-credential frameworks presented by the National Agencies of Quality Assurance in Albania, Montenegro, and Ukraine, and the further steps for their implementation in the target countries. To make the discussions more vivid and interactive, we enriched the meeting sessions with workshops and group work, mixing participants from different countries. This helped us better understand each other's specific needs and align the project approach. The social events across Podgorica's landscapes created beautiful memories and strengthened our ties!





Highlights from CRED4TEACH partners MONTENEGRO

As cooperation among partners at the national level is important for the successful implementation of the project, a working meeting was held on May 8, 2024, in Nikšić, at the Faculty of Philosophy (University of Montenegro). The aim of the meeting was to discuss the harmonization of the national and institutional micro-credentials frameworks. All three Montenegrin partners (University of Montenegro, University of Mediterranean, and the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education) agreed on the dynamics for realizing the project goals and outlined future activities for the development and implementation of micro-credentials.



ALBANIA

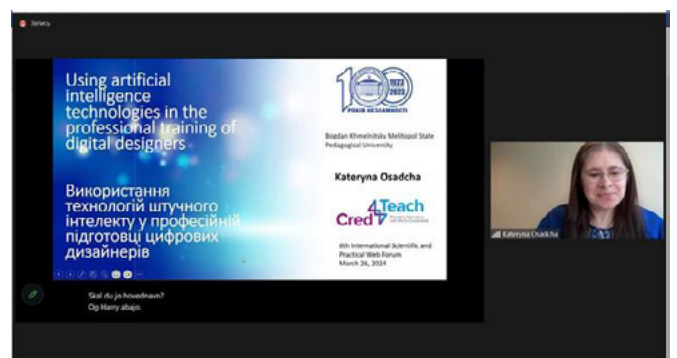
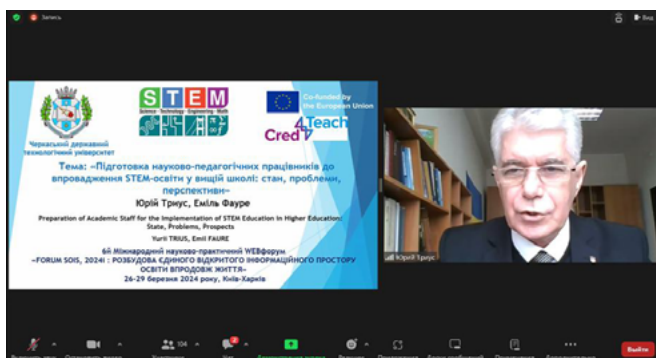
The University of Shkodra, together with the National Erasmus+ Office, participated in the first activity of the European Week 2024. This activity was carried out in the city of Shkodra, in Shirokë, on May 4, 2024. At the stand dedicated to the University of Shkodra, the CRED4TEACH project was presented along with other projects, programs, results, and various publications realized by the working and research groups of the University of Shkodra and supported by the European Union. The stand was also visited by Ambassador Mr. Silvio Gonzato and many other visitors who were interested in innovative approaches and outcomes.



UKRAINE

The VI International Scientific Online Forum titled „Development of a Unified Open Information Space for Lifelong Learning“ was held at the Ukrainian Engineering Pedagogics Academy from March 26 to 29, 2024. The number of registered participants for the forum exceeded 370 people from Ukraine and

various foreign countries, including scientists and practitioners from more than 70 localities. The forum's program included a round table presentation of the CRED4TEACH project, which attracted teachers from various sectors.



What is coming next?

The national frameworks for implementing micro-credentials in Albania, Montenegro and Ukraine are expected to be finalized by the end of June 2024. Based on the national frameworks, partner universities from those countries will design and adopt internal regulations for micro-credentials provision.

The technological infrastructure for the delivery and issuance of MOOC-based micro-credentials will be set up in the partner universities enabling them to act as high-quality micro-credentials provider.

Upskilled MOOC and micro-credentials designers will work together on the development of their pilot MOOC-based micro-credentials.



SAVE THE DATE

Last but not least: **On October 10, 2024, the 1st trans-national project conference** will be held at the University of Vlore in Albania. We will share the first project results with the academic community from Balkan countries. Follow our developments via social media and don't miss your chance to be part of this event.

Stay tuned!

Check out our website:
www.cred4teach.eu

Follow us:
Learn more about the project at:



Program:
Erasmus+, Key Action 2 -
Capacity Building in
Higher Education

Project lifetime:
June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2026

Project coordinator:
Fachhochschule des
Mittelstands (FHM)

